

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KNABE AND YAROSLAVSKY

March 25, 2008

Over the last fourteen months, this Board has taken action to protect the public from sewage spills. This Board took decisive action to significantly improve reporting requirements by joining Assemblyman Ted Liu in sponsoring Assembly Bill 800 which lead to not just countywide improvements, but statewide.

In addition, this Board asked the Auditor-Controller's office to come back one year later with a follow-up report, in consultation with the County's Public Health Commission, on the status of implementation. It was to include recommendations for further action needed.

The Auditor-Controller's one year follow-up report, now public, contains good news:

- County agencies fully implemented their parts of 15 of the 16 recommendations. However, five of these require further action by other jurisdictions.
- The inter-jurisdictional cooperation has been terrific. I particularly wish to commend and thank the Cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Culver City and Vernon, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Assembly Member Ted Liu, the State Legislature and the Governor.

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YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
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- Interested community organizations, especially Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper, have contributed good ideas, effort and support.
- It is evident that the County's Department of Public Health gave focused, high priority attention and leadership in repairing the reporting system. Well done.
- Thanks to these cooperative and conscientious efforts the spill reporting and response system is now substantially better, meaning the public now gets timely warning and protection from exposure to potentially contaminated water.

The Auditor-Controller now proposes seven new recommendations to further strengthen the reporting system and to further pursue the 2007 prevention ideas. These recommendations are worthy of our support.

But the spill data now in hand makes it clear that a more ambitious prevention effort is needed. We would like to see the same inter-jurisdictional cooperation that lead to the significant improvements in reporting now focus on doing all it can to reduce the number and volume of sewage spills originating in Los Angeles County.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD:

1. Adopt the seven recommendations in the Auditor-Controller's March 3, 2008 report and:
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer:
 - a. With the Director of Public Health, the Auditor-Controller and the County Sanitation Districts to work with other sewage system operators, the L. A. Water Board and other affected local jurisdictions in organizing a voluntary interagency spill prevention program.
 - b. Using the existing reporting system to monitor and analyze reductions over time in the number and magnitude of spills.
3. Instruct the Auditor-Controller, in consultation with the County's Public Health Commission, to conduct a follow-up review one year from now on all recommendations now open and report back as a set item on the Board's agenda.